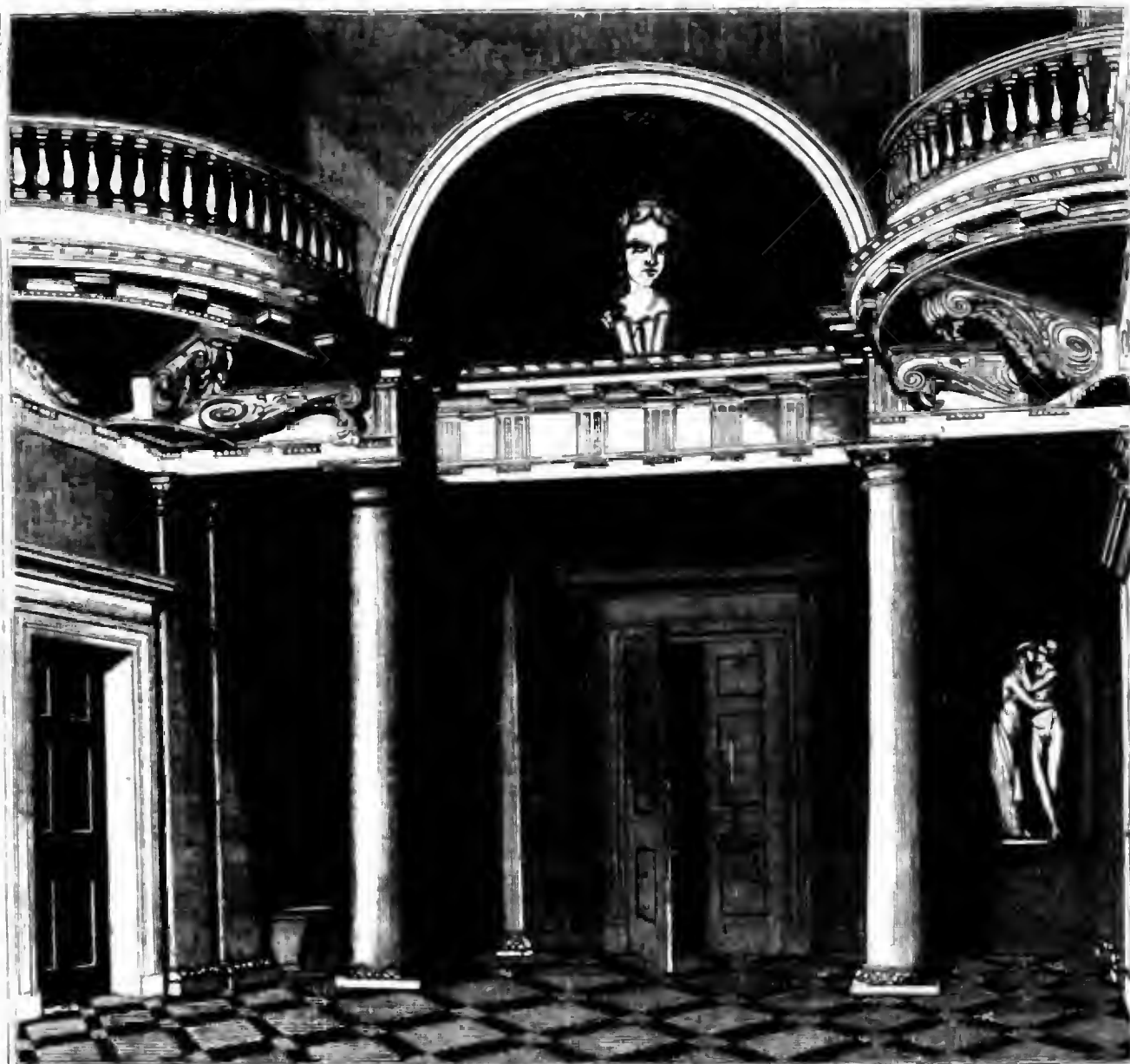


THE HALL AT BOWOOD.



THE HALL AT BOWOOD.

Bowood is the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne; it is situate about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Chippenham, in the middle of a noble park. The mansion is a large and fine pile of building, the work of the Adams. It has lately had some considerable additions, of conservatories, terrace gardens, &c., by Mr. Barry. Our view represents the end of the great hall, and illustrates how a seeming difficulty in the hands of a skilful architect may become a beauty. Without giving the plan of the upper rooms of the building, we can hardly illustrate the inconvenience sometimes occasioned by carrying up a large room, such as this entrance hall, two stories in height, by its interference with the communication between the rooms on each side of it on the upper floor.

The ingenious way in which a passage in this instance is obtained, will be evident upon an inspection of the view. An easy communication is obtained between the rooms on either side, on the upper floor, and a picturesque termination formed for the hall itself.

FRENCH IMPORTS OF METALS.—The chief imports in August last, in met. quin., as compared with those of August, 1847, were—

	August, 1847.	August, 1849.
Rough castings	58,190	18,301
Zinc	16,994	5,267
Lead	17,456	16,312
Brass	2,403	3,110
Copper	5,621	10,541

THE BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.

REMUNERATION OF ARCHITECTS.

THE guardians of the Birmingham union seem to have made up their minds to keep in our books. At their last meeting the committee reported that they had made an offer to Messrs. Drury and Bateman of a sum of 800*l.* to prepare the necessary working drawings, and superintend the erection of the new workhouse according to their plans; that amount not being intended to include the remuneration of the clerk of the works. (The building, we should mention, is estimated at 25,000*l.*) The chairman read the reply of Messrs. Drury and Bateman, which stated, that as the expenses out of pocket already incurred, and those which must necessarily be incurred hereafter, in carrying out the designs for the new workhouse, would amount to nearly the sum proposed to be paid them, and leave scarcely anything to compensate services that would extend over a period of two years, they were under the necessity of declining the offer. They were willing, however, to make some concessions, and hoped to be met in the same spirit. A motion that 900*l.* should be offered was put, but ultimately, after considerable discussion, it was resolved, by a majority of 26 to 12, that an offer of 4 per cent. upon the outlay should be made to the architects as a remuneration for their services.

This affords a fresh example of the position

in which architects place themselves who go into competition without properly-arranged conditions. After risking the entire loss of the time and expense incurred in the preparation of designs, and succeeding against rivals, they are offered less than the ordinary remuneration paid in cases where there is no risk at all. If the guardians did not intend paying the ordinary commission, they were bound to say so in the first instance.

We have given publicity to the improper circumstances attending the selection of Messrs. Drury and Bateman's plan (which may be not merely the best of those submitted, but the best ever made, for aught we know to the contrary); but the guardians having appointed them, we are bound to protest against the endeavour which is being made to induce them to accept less than the usual commission.

BACKS OF HOUSES.—I think a word might be said with advantage on the mode of constructing the backs of some of our finished houses, which are made as unsightly and unlike the fronts as possible. Look, for instance, at Kemp-town, and other of the great terraces at Brighton, which, seen from the back, look more like piles of workhouses or factories than the residences of the gentry of England. A little attention to "keeping" in building the backs of houses, would add greatly to their beauty and very little to their cost.—P.